

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 10534 100149Z

13

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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O 100130Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7652

S E C R E T SAIGON 10534

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REF: STATE 174064

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT THIEU AT 8:00 AM LOCAL TIME AUGUST 10. THE PRESIDENT READ THE LETTER VERY CAREFULLY BUT MADE NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT ON IT.

2. HE SAID IT CONTINUED TO BE HIS DESIRE TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT. HE PARTICULARLY WANTED TO HAVE FREE GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM COULD ONLY GAIN BY SUCH A PROCESS. THE PROBLEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, IN FACT IN ALL INDOCHINA, IS THE PRESENCE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY. THAT IS THE OBSTACLE TO NLF PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE NOT ONLY MAN THE MAIN FORCE UNITS BUT CONTROL ALL ENEMY UNITS DOWN TO THE GUERILLA AND LOCAL LEVEL THROUGH THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF THEIR PEOPLE. HE THOUGHT THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM COULD BE SETTLED QUICKLY IF ONLY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY WOULD LEAVE.

3 AS TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT OF COURSE THE JOB HAS TO BE DONE BY THE VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES, THAT HE HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THAT BUT, HE SAID, VIETNAM WILL NEED HELP AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER ALLIES.
LEHMANN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, VS, (FORD, GERALD R), (THIEU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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